

USDA SERVICE CENTER

Farm Service Agency

San Joaquin-Calaveras/Contra Costa-Alameda Counties

ELECTION UPDATE

The period to nominate candidates for the upcoming county committee election is closed. Nominations were due in the county office on Tuesday, Aug. 1. Ballots will be mailed to all eligible voters by Nov. 3. Voted and signed ballots must be returned to the county office by **Dec. 4, 2006**.

County committee elections give farmers and ranchers an important opportunity to ensure that their FSA county committees represent them.

Farmers and ranchers who serve on county committees help make decisions necessary to administer federal farm programs offered in their communities. County committees make decisions on agricultural issues such as commodity price support loans and payments, conservation programs, disaster payments and employing county executive directors.

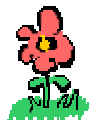
If you participate or cooperate in programs administered by FSA and live in the local administrative area conducting an election, you may be nominated for candidacy for a committee. You can obtain a complete list of eligibility requirements by visiting the county office or online at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/publications/facts/html/cocelig06.htm>.

- Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters by Nov. 3, 2006.
- The last day to return voted ballots to the county office is Dec. 4, 2006.
- Newly elected county committee members take office Jan. 1, 2007.

For detailed information about FSA county committees or to obtain a nomination form (FSA-669A), visit the county office or go online at:
<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/publications/elections/Default.asp>.

NAP COVERAGE

The Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) was designed to reduce financial losses that occur when natural disasters cause a catastrophic loss of production or prevented planting of an eligible crop by providing coverage equivalent to catastrophic (CAT) insurance. Statute limits livestock, for which CAT is not available and is produced for food or fiber. The application deadline date for the 2007 NAP crops is soon approaching.



SUMMER

2006 Vol 2

NAP cont'd

CROP	APPL. CLOSE DATE	COUNTY
Forage Crops	10-1-06	San Joaquin
Honey	12-1-06	All counties
Onions	12-1-06	All counties
Almonds, Apricots, Asparagus, Caneberries, Cherries, Grapes, Kiwi, Mint, Nectarines, Olives, Peaches, Pears, Persimmons, Pistachios, Plums, Pomegranates, Most Strawberries, Walnuts	12-15-06	All counties
2007 Apples	1-31-07	All counties

Producers who already have coverage on 2006 NAP crops may choose to continue coverage on the same crop or crops for 2007, if the applicable service fee is submitted by the application closing date.

A new CCC-471, application for coverage is not required to be signed when applying for continuous coverage of the same crop or crops.

Producers who choose to add a new crop(s) or delete a crop(s) from previous year's coverage or changing crop shares must file a new CCC-471 with signatures and pay the applicable service fee.

Producers with 2006 NAP coverage must remember to complete the following to qualify for benefits:

- Timely file acreage reports and keep track of harvested production using acceptable methods. For example, bale weights or other means of determining quantities of hay are required.
- File a "Notice of Loss" within 15 days of when a loss is apparent, due to drought, hail, etc.



MILCX PROGRAM

The Extended signup began on May 18, 2006, the day after the initial signup ended. The extended signup will continue throughout the duration of the MILCX program, ending on September 30, 2007. Producers that submit a MILCX for benefits during the extended signup can select either a start month for their dairy operation or the month the MILCX is submitted.

Dairy operations can change the start-month an unlimited number of times as long as the change is made:

- On or before day 14th of the month prior to the new MILCX production start-month (unless that day falls on a weekend. Then the date falls to the previous business day).

Please continue to submit monthly creamery statements to the County Office each month.

Year	Month	Rates (\$/cwt)	Year	Month	Rates (\$/cwt)
2005	October	\$0.0000000	2006	April	\$0.8398000
2005	November	\$0.0000000	2006	May	\$0.9248000
2005	December	\$0.0408000	2006	June	\$0.9996000
2006	January	\$0.1054000	2006	July	\$0.7990000
2006	February	\$0.1054000	2006	August	\$0.9248000
2006	March	\$0.4080000			

CCC-633-EZ REMINDER

Just a reminder to let you know that we've switched to the CCC-633-EZ form. Be sure to complete and sign page 1 of the EZ form as soon as possible and certainly before you lose beneficial interest.

Then, depending upon the crop, page 2, 3 or 4 is used to request an LDP any time during the loan/LDP availability period before or after losing beneficial interest.

For the 2006 crop year, the CCC-633 EZ and eLDP online requests are the only methods available to request LDPs.

Contact the county office at (209) 472-7127 for details.

COMMODITY LOANS MATURING

We also want to remind you that 2005 commodity loans for farm stored corn may mature in August and September. Take a second to view the condition of the grain during this weather pattern of humid air and fluctuating temperatures.

Do not forget, grain under Commodity Credit Corporation loan cannot be removed without prior authorization or repayment. Unauthorized removal, which includes removal for cleaning for seed or planting, is a violation and is subject to monetary and administrative penalties.

Your loans are subject to spot check. Determined shortages must be repaid with principal plus interest, and additional monetary penalties plus loss of future loan eligibility may apply. Producers planning to remove or clean CCC loan grain should contact the county office staff for additional information.

ACREAGE REPORTING

Filing an accurate and timely acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage, can prevent loss of benefits for a number of programs, including Direct and Counter-cyclical Program, Conservation Reserve Program, Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program and marketing assistance loans and loan deficiency payments.

Producers are required to file FSA-578 by the applicable final reporting date (April 30 for fall seeded crops and July 15 for spring seeded and/or permanent crops). To be considered timely filed, acreage reports for prevented planted acreage are required to be submitted no later than 15 calendar days after the

- final reporting date for the applicable crop;
- failed acreage shall be filed before the disposition of the crop.

****Please Note:** 2006 crops still needing to be reported **will be charged a \$25.00 per farm late-file fee.**

LAND FOR SALE

Producers and investors are encouraged to bookmark this Web site <http://www.resales.usda.gov/>. This site provides a national list of all inventory farms that are available for sale by the Farm Service Agency. These properties were acquired by the agency through mortgage defaults and oftentimes represent a good value. They may also represent an opportunity for beginning farmers to obtain a parcel of real estate and are initially targeted to beginning farmers for financing by the FSA.

REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS

Reasonable accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment or hearing impairment. If special accommodations are required, please call the Farm Service Agency county office staff, and we will be happy to make any arrangements that are necessary.

Selected Interest Rates for August 2006

90-Day Treasury Bill	4.875%
Farm Operating - Direct	5.500%
Farm Ownership - Direct	5.750%
Limited Resource	5.000%
Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	4.000%
Emergency	3.750%
Farm Storage Facility	5.125%
Sugar Storage Facility	5.250%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	6.250%
Tobacco (TTPP) Discount Rate	10.000%



WEBSITES

National FSA Web Site:

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov>

California FSA Web Site:

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/ca/ca.htm>

Up-to-date information on the new Farm Bill:

<http://www.agriculturelaw.com>

California Natural Resources Conservation

Service: <http://www.ca.nrcs.usda.gov>

California Rangelands Research and Information Center:

<http://agronomy.ucdavis.edu>



SECURITY GUIDELINES

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has released a booklet entitled "Pre-Harvest Security Guidelines and Checklist 2006" to help agricultural producers enhance security at the farm level. The booklet contains practical measures help to protect against natural disasters, as well as the unintentional or intentional introduction of plant or animal diseases. To get a copy, stop by the county office. More information is available at:

<http://www.usda.gov/homelandsecurity>.

PREMISES ID

Producers with a Premises ID need to contact the Farm Service Agency county office staff to update their premises information following a change in address, type of premises, name of contact person or telephone number. This is required to ensure an accurate database. Premises ID is part of the voluntary National Animal Identification System. NAIS is designed to rapidly identify all animals and premises that have had direct contact with a disease. Details on NAIS are available at:

<http://animalid.aphis.usda.gov/naais/index.shtml>

SOLDIER'S AND SAILOR'S RELIEF ACT

Producers who are full time members of the military or have been called to active duty with their Reserve or National Guard units should know about the protections provided by the Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act of 1940.

Producers or borrowers should notify the county office if they are full-time members of the armed services or have been called to active duty status whether or not their financial situation has been adversely affected.

2006 DIRECT & COUNTER-CYCLICAL PROGRAM (DCP)

The deadline to enroll for the 2006 Direct & Counter-Cyclical Program year was June 1, 2006. There will be a \$100 fee for each farm enrolled after the June 1 deadline, up until September 30, 2006. **No farms may be enrolled for the 2006 DCP year after this date.** If you would like to sign up for the 2006 DCP year or if you have any questions regarding the program, please contact the office to schedule an appointment before **September 30, 2006.**



WOOL-MOHAIR LOANS & LDP'S

Producers have **until Jan. 31, 2007**, to request LDPs for 2005-crop wool and mohair that have not yet been marketed and remain in storage. If LDPs are not requested, producers have until Jan. 31, 2007, to request loans for 2006-crop wool or mohair. To be eligible for a nine-month marketing assistance loan or LDP for wool or mohair, producers must demonstrate compliance with wetland and highly erodible land conservation requirements.

CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES

Program participants convicted under federal or state law of any planting, cultivating, growing, producing, harvesting or storing a controlled substance are ineligible for program payments and benefits.

If convicted of one of these offenses, the program participant shall be ineligible during that crop year and the four succeeding crop years for direct and counter-cyclical payments, price support loans, loan deficiency payments, market loan gains, storage payments, farm facility loans, Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program payments or disaster payments.

Program participants convicted of any federal or state offense consisting of the distribution (trafficking) of a controlled substance shall, at the discretion of the court, be ineligible for any or all program payments and benefits:

- for up to 5 years after the first conviction
- for up to 10 years after the second conviction
- permanently for a third or subsequent conviction.

Program participants convicted of federal or state offense for the possession of a controlled substance shall be ineligible, at the discretion of the court, for any or all program benefits, as follows:

- up to 1 year upon the first conviction
- up to 5 years after a second or subsequent conviction.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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**SAN JOAQUIN / CALAVERAS
 FSA COUNTY COMMITTEE**

PATTI SPENCE
KEVIN DELU
RUDY MUSSI
ANGELO STAGNARO

Chairman
Vice-Chairman
Regular Member
Regular Member

**CONTRA COSTA/ALAMEDA
 FSA COUNTY COMMITTEE**

JOHN GINOCCHIO
GLENN STONEBARGER
BARBARA DE BORBA
SCOTT BEYER
ANTHONY COSTELLO

Chairman
Vice-Chairman
Regular Member
Regular Member
Regular Member



BENEFICIAL INTEREST CLARIFIED

The Farm Service Agency national office staff has clarified its policy on open storage by rescinding part of a notice issued in July. Producers who deliver to a Commodity Credit Corporation-approved, federally- or state-licensed warehouse and the commodity is placed in open storage must be able to receive from the warehouse a negotiable warehouse receipt or other form of acceptable production evidence, if requested.

For details on the policy, contact the county office staff. National FSA notices are available on the agency's Web site: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov> by clicking on "Notices" under "Resources" in the left column.

WATCH FOR THESE UPCOMING DEADLINES!



Deadlines	Program
September 4	Labor Day
September 30	Last day to file for 2006 DCP, with Late File Fee of \$100 PER FARM
Nov. 3	County Committee election ballots mailed.
Dec. 4	Last day to return voted ballots in county committee election.
Continues	GRP Program



The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disabilities, political beliefs and marital or familial status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audio type, etc.) should contact the USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 702-2661 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint, write the Secretary of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C., 20250, or call 1-800-245-6340 (voice) or (202) 720-1127 (TDD). USDA is an Equal Opportunity employer.